

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Conroy on 8/25/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 48, 56, and 64.

Please replace claim 58 with the following amended claim:

58. (Currently Amended) A system comprising: storage configured to store professional license status information for a plurality of users; and

an authentication service configured to:

receive digital credential information from a relying party, wherein the digital credential information is indicative of a first user being professionally licensed;

verify the digital credential information using the professional license status information;

provide verification information indicative of a valid professional license of the first user to the relying party; and

provide information to the first user, the information indicative of the provision of verification information indicative of the valid professional license to [[from]] the relying party, wherein the authentication server is configured to provide the information indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information without regard to whether the relying party has received the valid digital credential information from the first user, and wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While the prior art teaches the claim limitations of receiving digital credential information from a relying party at an authentication service, the digital credential information being indicative of a first user being professionally licensed; verifying that the digital credential information using professional license status information; and providing verification information indicative of a valid professional license of the first user from the authentication service to the relying party, the prior art fails to further teach or render obvious providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of the provision of verification information indicative of the valid professional license to the relying party, in the specific combination of limitations as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Claims 42-46, 49-54, 58-62, 65-66, and 69-73 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW T. HENNING whose telephone number is (571)272-3790. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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